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COMPLIMENTS OF

JAMES S. STURDEVANT,

89 WATER STREET,

NEW YORK.

MEMORIAL.

# DR. JAMES M. STURDEVANT.

Yours
J. McSturdevant

The Matthews Kriegshaber Mfg. & Lith. Co. 56 Park Place, N.Y.

# MEMORIAL.

# DR. JAMES M. STURDEVANT.

Prepared for Private Distribution.

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# DR. JAMES M. STURDEVANT.

UPON a marble-slab, in the village cemetery at Martinsburgh, Lewis County, New-York, overlooking many miles of the Valley of the Black River, is the inscription :—

CALEB STURDEVANT,

DIED,

OCTOBER 17, 1837, AGED 78 YEARS,

A CHRISTIAN AND HERO,

A SURVIVOR OF THE BATTLES OF GERMANTOWN AND MONMOUTH.

JAMES MONROE STURDEVANT, the subject of this sketch, was the seventh son of him, whose death and services are of the above monumental record; and was born at Tinmouth, Rutland County, Vermont, March 11, 1800. He died at Rome, N. Y., August 10, 1873.

His father Caleb Sturdevant,* removed with his family,

* *Caleb Sturdevant* was born at Danbury, Conn., August 25, 1759; enlisted in March, 1777, in Conn., and served three years in the war of the American Revolution, participating in the battles of Germantown and Monmouth; in the latter, it is believed, serving with his regiment under General Charles Lee. He was a private in Captain Baldwin's Company, in Col. Heman Swift's Regiment of Infantry, and was honorably discharged the service in 1780, at Springfield, N. J. He was a pensioner of the United States, under act of 1818. Lived at Danbury, Conn.; Wells, Vermont, where he had a brother-in-law, Michael Clemens; and Tinmouth, Vt., where land was surveyed for him in 1792, and a deed was given him there for land in 1796. He married Merriam Howe, of Wells, Vt.; member of Baptist church at Middletown, Vt.; served in battle of Sandy Creek, N. Y., 1814. He died at Martinsburgh, N. Y., October 17, 1837, aged 78 years.

wife and ten children to the south part of Ellisburgh, Jefferson County, New York, in February, 1813. His settlement was about two and a half miles below the present village of Mansville, on the Rome and Ogdensburgh Railroad, amid an almost unbroken forest, extending to Lake Ontario. That township was but recently opened to settlement, and the family, perhaps, experienced more than the usual privations and hardships of pioneer life. An article in the *Rising Sun and New York Recorder*, Rome, N. Y., described their settlement in Ellisburgh, as follows: "In the midst of a dense forest, a log shanty had been reared by his brother Ira, 18 by 24 feet, without nails or sound of a hammer. The walls were not only piles of logs, but the flat roof was covered with basswood logs, and the floor of split basswood, while the fire-place was the bare ground in one corner of the room. For a door, wooden hinges were fastened by wooden pins to a rough board, all done by means of a knife and axe. Oiled white paper, set in sash whittled from basswood with a pocket knife, fastened with wooden pins, constituted the windows. Not a nail was used in this primitive home; but everything was axe-hewn and fastened with wooden pins. In this rustic home the family of the Sturdevants found shelter, and in which it remained during the winter of 1813." The winter was a very cold one, with many heavy storms, the snow lying four feet on the level. To the great joy of the family, Caleb obtained a cow, which was kept through the winter on straw wet with saltwater, and abundance of brouse from the surrounding forest trees. To cold and privation disease was added, and in all thirteen were attacked with the epidemic *typhoid pneumonia*, so prevalent and fatal during the years of the war. The family were spared, but fatality occurred among their neighbors.

The brothers of Dr. Sturdevant, Ira and Caleb, cleared the land of the forest, and a couple of acres were planted the next Spring, while sap from the sugar maples, collected in basswood troughs cut out with an axe, was reduced to sugar for the family use, by boiling in a kettle suspended over the fire from a pole resting between a large log, and a crotched stick driven into the ground.

Referring to their experience, a late private memorandum of Dr. Sturdevant states: "In my childhood days, I spent many a happy day in the forest, where the wind murmured amid the tree tops; the squirrels would come out of their holes and look me in the face and chatter, and then skip away. The partridge would drum on the logs; the Spring birds would fly around filling the air with their music, and now and then a wild deer from the dense forest would come to see what was going on in his domain, and if he did not like the appearance of things, would show his white flag and bound away, and he had better be gone, for by this time, our dogs were after him."

Ever susceptible to the kindly influences of nature's wildest scenes, his

> Heart grew holier, at the trace
> Of Beauty in the world below.

In the absence of religious instruction, his father united with four Methodist neighbors, constituting a "class," thus securing the services of the Rev. Luther Bishop, their first clergyman. In 1814, the afterwards locally celebrated Isaac Puffer, widely known in the Black River (N. Y.) country, as "chapter and verse" preacher, was sent them, it being his first appointment. As there was a female among them who could be spared from domestic duty, who could read and spell, but not write, but able to read writing, a common school was soon organized.

From this humble home, JAMES M., at the early age of thirteen years, went forth to life's stern conflict, and duty.

In 1813, he received $4 a month and board, on a farm, and $6 and board in the season following, and attending the common school, at Ellisburgh village, the winters of 1814 and 1815.

Located near the Northern frontier, in the war of 1812 he volunteered with his father, and served in the battle of Sandy Creek, N. Y., in 1814 ; one of the most important border conflicts of that war. His recollections of the engagement, were published in the Rome N. Y. *Sentinel*, July 15, 1873.*

In Spring of 1815, he engaged with his uncle, Isaac Shepard,† at Copenhagen, N. Y., for board and clothing, three months winter schooling, and one hundred and fifty dollars, and two suits of clothes at the end of the term of service. An early and eager student, all available time was devoted to study. Rising before dawn his lessons were conned by fire-light, and he was thus ready for the manual labors of the day.

In September, 1816, he took the important step, of the public declaration of his religious faith, and was baptized at Copenhagen by Rev. S. Osgood, of Henderson, and received as a member of the Baptist church, at Denmark.

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* See official account of the battle, Hough's history of Jefferson County, N. Y., p. 511.

† Mr. Shepard was a kind hearted man, and took an interest in my welfare. His wife was my own aunt, my father's sister Hannah, a good devoted Christian lady, who took great pains to make me comfortable and happy. They had four daughters, Lucy, Laura, Harriet, and Emeline, my cousins, with whom I attended school. With this family I spent my youthful days—days of pleasure indeed. These young ladies were of good character, high in their estimate of the proprieties of life, good readers, lovers of books. We spent our evenings at home reading, etc., and never attending places of amusement. If abroad evenings it was to prayer meetings, singing and spelling schools.—*(J. M. S.)*

To the views thus early enunciated, he unfalteringly adhered with the most Catholic charity toward others throughout his long and useful life of self-sacrificing devotion, and Christian duty. At Copenhagen he was instrumental in organizing the first Sabbath school at that place.*

In fall of 1819, he was joined by two others, and once each week visited Dr. John Whiting,† who subjected them to close criticism of their week's study, to their great advantage. By economy of time, and energy of character, he laid the foundations of his worldly success.

For nine years he served as Inspector of Common Schools, of Denmark, with "his worthy friend and associate," Wm. C. Lawton, Esq. While teaching in the Col. Zeboam Carter District, Lowville, in March, 1821, he attained majority, and was unsettled in choice of occupation for life, a problem which occasioned him much anxiety. He says: "I for months deliberated and prayed for wisdom to decide this, to me, momentous question." Fixing upon medicine, he began reading October 18, 1821, with Dr. C. P. Kimball, of Rutland, Jefferson County, N. Y. Dividing his time with his professional studies, teaching, and cultivation of a small farm, he raised three acres of corn, and being without medical books or money, he bought at Watertown, on credit, the first volumes of his medical library (3 Vols. of Bell's Anatomy) for $11, to be paid for in rye, which was promptly met. He speaks of Dr. Kimball as "a good physician, and kind hearted Christian man." Promptness to obligation, pecuniary and professional, were ever characteristics of the man.

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* A Sabbath school was organized by Elder Crandal, at Denmark village, in summer of 1820. (Information of W. C. Lawton, Esq.)

† Dr. Whiting took an interest in our progress, and great pleasure in assisting us in our studies.—*(J. M. S.)*

Teaching the following winter, he returned in the Spring of 1822, to Copenhagen, pursuing his studies with Dr. John Whiting until June, when, for special instruction in Latin and Chemistry, he attended the Lowville Academy, then under the fostering care of the late President, Stephen W. Taylor, of Hamilton University, N. Y., for whose generous aid and encouragement, he was ever grateful through life.

Resuming with Dr. Whiting in the fall, he obtained and taught the school at Copenhagen in the winter, and pursuing his course with Dr. Whiting the following summer, while boarding with him, and spending two days each week upon his farm. After another year of teaching in the Chester Buck, West Lowville district (1823–24), his final tutorship in his profession was served under Dr. Amasa J. Trowbridge, of Watertown, N. Y., a surgeon of great local reputation, after which (Oct., 1824) he attended two courses of lectures, at the then celebrated *Fairfield Medical College*, N. Y.; graduating with honor, receiving his diploma July 12, 1825.* Being unaided in his expenses

* In 1807, the Regents of the University, instituted the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New York. In 1812, the Regents organized a Medical school at Fairfield, in the county of Herkimer, where all the branches of Medical Education are taught on terms so reasonable, and in a manner so satisfactory, as to have procured for it a reputation which reflects honor on the State. * * It appears to have been established by the Regents with a single eye to the improvement of the character of the profession in the interior and remote parts of the State; and it has answered their highest expectations. * * * At the time when this school was instituted there were two in New York city, one under the authority of the Trustees of Columbia College, and the other under the immediate control of the Regents. * * * The only green spot on which our recollections can rest with satisfaction, is the school of Medicine at Fairfield. Ever since its organization it has kept "the noiseless tenor of its way," neither coveting the distinction which arises from angry controversy, nor shrinking from a public exhibition of its claims, whenever interest, jealousy or hostility, have attempted to invade them. Situated in the interior of the State, it has silently and successfully prosecuted the great ends of its institution, without having to contend with dis-

and tuition, he left that Institution eighteen dollars in debt.

By the intimate acquaintances of Dr. Sturdevant, this perhaps tedious recital of his early struggles, labors, and persistent purposes will be especially cherished.

While at Fairfield, his instructors were Drs. T. Romeyn Beck, James McNaughton, and Westel Willoughby. One of the most pleasing incidents of his latest years was a call upon the venerable daughter of Dr. Beck, Mrs. Pierre Van Courtland, at the famous Van Courtland Mansion, near Sing Sing, on the Hudson, in 1868.

After graduation he entered into practice with Dr. John Loud, a prominent physician at Copenhagen (who united farming with his practice), and with whom he continued about three years, and thereafter entered upon the practice at that place, with great success, in his own name. He says: "I did not know where to locate; I was poor and destitute; no clothes, no medicines or medical library, no surgical instruments, no horse, and no money to buy them with."

A partnership was accepted with Dr. John Loud, at one-third the first, two-fifths the second, and one-half the proceeds of our mutual business the third year. It closed by limitation. Dr. Loud booked about $300 a year prior to their partnership; but the new firm charged $900 the first year, $1,200 the second, and $1,400 the third year. The increase of ride, however, did not secure very flattering pecuniary results, as the settlers were poor, in a new country, with a scanty living. "I found Dr. Loud to be an honorable man. He was also a sincere Christian man."

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sensions from within, or opposition from without, till it has fairly attained the confidence of the profession and the support of an enlightened public.—*Extracts from President Jas. R. Manley's address before the New York State Medical Society*, 1827.

Starting alone, he says: "I stood before the public as one devoted to a high and holy calling; a profession devoted to the great interest of humanity, which was to alleviate suffering, remove pain, smooth and cheer and comfort the dying, and sustain and comfort the afflicted; I felt its importance and responsibility. I could but inquire with the Apostle Paul, 'who is sufficient for these things.'"

While at Copenhagen new families, neighborhoods, and districts were added to his rides, and a fair remuneration rewarded his assiduous efforts. But the trials incident to a country practice, in a section of deep snows, often four feet on the level, and of excessive cold, were his.

While at Copenhagen, he married at Martinsburgh, N. Y., July 25, 1827, HARRIET STEPHENS,* second daughter of Ehud Stephens, Esq., one of the earliest settlers at Lowville, Lewis County, N. Y., and in 1808 and 1820, sheriff of that county. She was the first white child born in the latter town. The ceremony was performed by the late Barnabas Yale, of Potsdam, N. Y., then an official in Lewis County. JAMES STEPHENS STURDEVANT (of Abbey & Sturdevant, 182 Fulton Street, New York City, wholesale grocers), is the surviving issue of this alliance.

Disposing of his interests at Copenhagen to Doctors Shaw and Taylor, in January 1832, he succeeded Doctor Rathbone, at Martinsburgh, in March the same year, where he entered into copartnership in practice with Doctor William Thompson, a gentleman of extended practice, whose services were soon lost to the county by failing health.

At Martinsburgh he opened a drug and book store; was active in forming the Baptist church society at that

* Born in Lowville, February 24, 1799; died at Martinsburgh, N. Y., January 15, 1834.

place ;* elected Town Clerk in 1845 ; and diligently followed the practice of his profession.

The 28th of May, 1834, he married at Lowville, N. Y., LOUISA,† daughter of Rufus Stephens, of that town, a cousin of his former wife ; the Rev. Charles Clark,‡ a Baptist minister, and relative by marriage, performing the ceremony. Their children, LOUISE, wife of GUSTAVUS M. PALMER ; MARY ; and CHARLES F. STURDEVANT, reside at Rome, N. Y.

In 1848, he removed to Rome, N. Y., where he continued in the profession, with a large practice, until his decease at Rome. He was at one period health-officer, and physician at the county poor-house thirteen years.

Dr. Sturdevant, delivered the semi-centennial address before the Oneida County Medical Society, at the city of Utica, in 1856. But two out of the four only living at its organization, were present. (See Appendix D.)

Dr. Sturdevant,§ was of sympathetic temperament ;

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* *The Martinsburgh Baptist Society* was formed September 30, 1839, with Levi Bronson, John Waters, Shepard Lee, Samuel Miner, James M. Sturdevant as Trustees. In the following year a new church edifice was erected in Martinsburgh village, and the congregation worshiping in the former edifice (1½ miles south), removed thither.

† Born at Lowville, N. Y., December 12, 1808; died at Rome, N. Y., 29th of May, 1867.

‡ See Hough's History, Lewis County, N. Y., p. 169.

§ Received his diploma from the Medical Society of County of Herkimer, at Fairfield N. Y., July 12, 1825, from President W. Willoughby ; commissioned Surgeon of 101st Regiment, Infantry, by Governor Troup, September 16, 1830 ; he filed his credentials as a Physician, in Lewis Co., February 19, 1832 ; President of the Lewis County Medical Society, 1843 ; Seth Adams, Vice-President ; Wm. Thompson, Secretary ; Censors, S. Adams, David Perry, Otis Shaw, D. B. Harmon ; and July 6, 1846, he read a paper before it on the *Responsibility of Physicians ;* DOCTOR OF MEDICINE, by Willoughby University, of Lake Erie, February 24, 1846 ; delivered the semi-centennial address before the Oneida County Medical Society, at Utica, in 1856; made permanent member (from Oneida District) of the New York State Medical Society, 1858, Dr. Henry M. Bagg, of Utica, and Dr. Henry N. Porter, of Lee Centre, being respectively his predecessors and successors, in the years of 1857 and 1859. In 1859, on recommendation of the

charitable to a fault; to the calls of the poor, ever heedful; and from a large practice might readily have amassed a competence, but for his manly and kindly promptings to the unfortunate and distressed.

As a student of the class of 1822, of the LOWVILLE (N. Y.) ACADEMY, Dr. Sturdevant was present at the semi-centennial, July 21 and 22, 1858; an occasion in which his strong sympathetic nature found ample occasion for genial exercise.

To omit notice of an incident of grave public interest, the first use of chloroform recorded on like occasion, occurring through the zeal of the true physician, to ameliorate man's sufferings below, and strongly illustrative of Dr. Sturdevant's kindly nature, would be to blemish the record of his beneficent labors through life. On the morning of the execution of William Henry Carswell, at Rome, N. Y., January 8, 1869, DRS. HUNT AND STURDEVANT, visited the condemned and took from him 16 oz. of blood. At that interview, DR. STURDEVANT asked Carswell if he desired chloroform administered to him on the scaffold, to which he answered in the affirmative. Just prior to the execution, after the black cap was drawn down over the upper part of the face, chloroform was administered until he began to writhe under its effect, when the cap was drawn closely down, and the wretched man launched into eternity. It was a matter of criticism in the journals as to the propriety of thus lessening the pangs of dissolution, inasmuch as the execution was the *public punishment* of a malefactor. But to the gentle nature of Dr. Sturdevant

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State Medical Society, the degree of DOCTOR OF MEDICINE, was conferred on him by the Regents of the N. Y. State University; 1859, President of the Oneida Co. Medical Society, and read a paper before it on *Pathology;* 1860, his paper on *Hypodermic Medication*, before the N. Y. State Medical Society, was published in the "Transactions" of that year, and is copied into this volume. (See Appendix B.)

all considerations of propriety were merged in a desire to mitigate distress. (See appendix A.) The Sheriff (Weaver) was harshly criticised, and indeed we believe, one of the "charges" subsequently made against him to the Governor, on which a hearing was had, with view to vacate his office, was for permitting the administration of chloroform, at a public execution for crime. We believe the charges were dismissed, as against the Sheriff. To the humanity of the act, by the Doctor, it is believed no exception was ever taken.

A genial disinterestedness characterized his life, permeating the intimacies of professional service, and the charmed circle of attached friends and reverent kindred. Those near his own age were specially objects of generous regard. A vein of quiet pleasantness pervaded his intercourse, and the many social gatherings with personal friends in which, in his later years, he found relief from duty, were cherished days to him, and them.* His faith was carried into practice, and while adhering to his personal and carefully formed opinions, it was amplified and illustrated by acts of charity and forgiveness worthy of the Master. Unfaltering, along the road of scientific truth, and deduction, he pressed forward on his life mission of charity and duty. In a feebler sense, the words spoken of the greatest of modern Christian scientists may be spoken of him—"His whole life in its broad philanthropy, in its pervading spirit of service, in its fidelty to arduous trusts and duties, in its simplicity and truthfulness, bespoke one who was unconsciously fulfilling a mission from God to his fellow-men."†

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* Among those present at Dr. James M. Sturdevant's seventy-third birthday supper, at Rome on March, 11th, were the Rev. S. Haines, aged 73; Jeptha Matteson, 73; Deacon D. M. Crowell, about the same age; Rev. Father Smith, of St. Mary's German Catholic church; and Samuel Wardwell, and Simmons.—*Journal and Republican*, Lowville N. Y., April 2, 1873.

† Rev. A. P. Peabody's Sermon, on Agassiz.

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# Funeral Address

*Was delivered to a very large assemblage of the citizens, at the Presbyterian Church,*

BY REV. H. H. PEABODY,

*Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Rome, of which deceased was a member. Among the auditors were Father Beacham, and Father Smith and assistant, of the Catholic Churches, of that city. The day was very rainy, and a heavy rain storm prevailed while the remains were interred in the family lot at the Rome Cemetery.*

# ADDRESS.

## DELIVERED AT THE FUNERAL OF DR. J. M. STURDEVANT,

BY

## REV. H. H. PEABODY.

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Were I to consult my own feelings, I should not speak to this assembly to-day, but rather take my seat among the mourners. The dear Doctor, whose loss we mourn, had gotten far into my affections, and there will be a peculiar fragrance about his memory that I can never lose. In this, I know that my heart represents the hearts of all. We meet as a congregation of mourners, pathetically touched by the falling asleep of our friend and brother.

Born in the State of Vermont in the year 1800, Dr. Sturdevant moved in early life into Lewis County of this State, and from thence to our city of Rome in 1848. For his profession, that of Medicine, one of the noblest, and opening out as it does into a broad and generous field of usefulness, he was by nature well adapted, possessing the essentials both of a sound judgment and a sympathetic heart. Here for the last quarter of a century he has moved among you practicing the divine art of healing, hastening at your summons to the bedside of your sick and dying. For this, his chosen profession, he had a marked enthusiasm that never abated. Carrying within his heart a warm Christian love, he often embraced the opportunity offered by his office of physician to the body to proffer spiritual remedies for the healing of the soul.

Here he has lived until he became an old man, three years past the allotted threescore and ten, yet still clinging with the lingering activity of age to his professional duties.

It became a difficult thing for him to move along our streets, although time had handled him so gently, and had crept on so silently, and withal his spirit was so youthful that we could scarcely think of him as an old man. But a few days ago we remember him, dropping his pleasantries into our ears, or half scolding his decrepit body over the infirmities that were so fast creeping upon it. For the last few months he had grown prophetic over his coming death, writing bits of reminiscences of his early life for his family, adjusting his papers, and telling his friends that some day they would find him gone, and his prophesy came true.

In his office, in the quietness of the early night, in all probability the sleep of translation came. And now we stand around his bier. Death has brought its transfiguring influence, and through it his character has blossomed to our vision. Sitting here, our minds are busy in thinking of what the Doctor was, and what he did.

Dr. Sturdevant was a friend in spirit to almost every one. He was characterized by friendliness of disposition. All of the humanitarian impulses and sentiments were prominently developed in his nature, so that his outlook upon life was friendly and benevolent. His sympathy was many sided, so that his heart flowed out and touched life at many points. His profession took him among many of the poor, and to the poor his benevolent nature responded freely. His friendliness was not of the exclusive kind, but rather diffusive. He loved the brotherhood, all brotherhoods. He was not a man of vehement likes and dislikes, so that half the world was shut from his heart, bound

part only to his affinities; but his heart circled the community, and no one doubted but that in Dr. Sturdevant they had a friend. Neither were his eyes filled with motes of prejudice, taking away from that power he always possessed, of seeing the better side of human nature. So the hindrances in his heart to common friendliness were few. And there is nothing that so beautifies and ennobles life as this friendliness of intention. This power of holding in one human heart the common interest, is rare as it is beautiful. With it the human spirit of a solitary man will, like air, pervade the community. And this marked the Doctor's character. There are but few men in our city, whose death would as tenderly affect so many hearts. We respond through our presence here to-day, to this diffusive friendliness of our brother's heart.

His social nature was strong; social communion with him was a delight. But while his charities and sympathies were so general, they did not prevent him from being domestic. In a true social sense he loved the world, yet he was happiest and freest at home. Men of philanthropic turn, or men possessed with the more universal sympathy, are often charged with being deficient in those qualities necessary to make home happy. But not so with the Doctor. Here he was generous, and tender, and mild; here the real beauty of his social character was seen. Into his home he infused the very spirit of hospitality. In his relation as father, he was anxious and careful. He studied the art of making his family happy. His natural mirthfulness of character, which neither age nor infirmity overcame, there flowed freely. No one was more sensitive to a harsh or unlovely word than he, and from this delicacy he was equally sensitive over the feelings of others. This sensitiveness made him easily depressed, and these spells of depression rather increased

in his last days. Indeed such was the sensitiveness of his organization, that the slightest cause would often send him down into the chilling depths of depression, and a cause equally slight would restore the equilibrium of his spirits, and bring back again the sparkle of his wonted mirth. Yet he never allowed this depression to affect those surrounding him, and it was apprehended only by those with whom he was most intimate. Pacific, mild, conciliatory, he lived in the spirit of his Master's beatitude: "Blessed are the peace-makers." The Doctor would have been miserable in a quarrel. He was always found hushing down the rising irritations of life, breathing words of charity when harsh condemnation was used, putting character and deeds in the best possible light. He always prayed for peace in Israel.

I have said that age handled our departed friend gently. But in his heart he carried a fountain of perennial youth that defied age. Could he have lived threescore years longer, still would he remain, I believe, a young man. He possessed that progressive element called faith, an angel whose wings touch the future and the past alike. In this life it is difficult always to retain the early freshness of our faith. Aged men are often found in bondage to the past; they feel that all virtue has gone out of life, and that all things are hastening on toward an autumnal decay; not unfrequently they tell us that they are deserted, left to hobble along some solitary road of ancient travel, with all the younger and gayer world brushing rudely past them. Otherwise was it with our brother. He was not in bondage to the past. He loved the past, and was fond of dwelling upon the differences between now and then. Yet he lived emphatically in the present, while he allowed the shadows of coming events to play joyfully over his heart. In the contest of life his heart

had not soured. I never heard him speak a bitter word. The only thing failing him was his body ; he had not lost his zest in life ; it had still, in the imperishableness of his youthful spirit, its attractions and delights. He thought of the good things yet to be. Life had not spent all its sweets for him, and willingly would he have enjoyed them longer if God had so willed. The simplicity, artlessness, and childlikeness of his nature made him ever young.

Our brother possessed by nature a religious temperament. His reverence for the Divine was large. In his faith he was truly liberal, although this mild-hearted man carried positive convictions. Mild and peaceful in character himself, he drew to his heart the gentler and lovelier influences of the Christian faith. His attachment to the Master was strong and sincere. His piety did not overbound in sentiment, but was practical, manifesting itself in good deeds. Nowhere outside of his home circle will he be missed more than in our meetings for prayer. By nature he was devotional, and the social prayer meeting especially became very dear to him. The last Wednesday evening spent on earth was with us in the prayer circle. His manner, so spontaneous and informal, and his speech so conversational, helped to break that formal spirit which will sometimes gather over the best of devotional meetings, so that I was always glad of his presence. He loved the Church of Christ, and all of its interests were held anxiously in his heart. Of late he had not been able to attend the social meetings for prayer regularly, yet invariably would he mention the fact of his absence, determined that his pastor should know that his infirmity was the sole cause of his remaining away. For over a quarter of a century has he been a member of our church, sharing cheerfully in all of its labors. When our new church-building was begun his interest and anxiety in-

creased. He took the whole enterprise into his heart, often undertaking work beyond his strength. His prayer was that he might be allowed to worship once in the new sanctuary, but this was denied him; not here, but in fairer temples above does he worship now.

We shall all miss him. As a pastor, I shall feel his loss in the home circle and in the prayer circle; I shall miss him in the kindly word of praise and encouragement he so often dropped, and in the word of wise counsel and caution that he gave me so guardedly, lest some feeling in my heart be hurt. In the chain of religious influence in our city, one bright link is broken. We open our ranks to let our brother pass on, sorrowing over the parting, yet confident of his eternal gain. So our kind social friend, this father and Christian brother, has passed away—has stepped within the invisible circle. God had been kind and loving to him. Down to the low horizon of mortality his life was prolonged. His experiences had been many, and they were all gathered full and ripe into his heart. The body that had served him so long and faithfully, was slowly tending towards the dust, muffling the sense and limiting the spirit more and more. He had lived to add more than his mite to the sum of human good. He had lived along into the years where the mellow autumn tints of trust and faith had touched his soul. A silvery serenity, so characteristic of dear old age, had stolen upon his brow. Then why should he not die? We know that God wanted him. He did not want him to suffer long, only to close his eyes and rest. The morning of his life had long since broadened into noon, the noon had lengthened and deepened into the twilight, and the stars foretelling that the night of death was at hand, were dimly twinkling over the silvered head of this tired pilgrim. Then he was gathered to his fathers. And so death came.

How friendly a thing it really is. How beneficently it has served our brother. With one stroke it has separated the tenant from the obstructing clay. It came as emancipation. The body, all that gave suffering and limit, we bury to-day, while the soul has gone out to the land of immortal youth, to join the kindreds and generations gone before. On the margin of the immortal shore of future being we may think of him, and as not alone. He has entered that place prepared for him by his Master. Kind heavenly greetings have fallen upon his ears; friendly hands have been outstretched towards him; the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are evermore his companions. Friends, this death will leave many vacant places. There is a vacant place in our church. One by one the aged members are falling like withered leaves, and quickly to our minds there comes the thought, upon whom shall this mantle fall? This is indeed a serious question when the aged so firm and constant fall. Who will take his seat in our prayer circle? Who will come out from among the younger men of our congregation and cast the influence of their lives, as he did his, on the side of God? As a church how his departure should stir us to increased activity. How the interest he manifested, and the anxiety he felt for our church, should impart an added interest in and anxiety for the cause lying so near our hearts. Oh, as brothers in Christ let us not miss this lesson. There is a vacant place in the ranks of the medical men of this city and of this county. By them I know that the philanthropic and religious character of the deceased has its due appreciation. His profession was the channel through which he served God and man. Shall I not say, emulate this virtue of your brother doctor, for your profession opens upon the ignorance, want, and woe of humanity, and the world has great need of the light that you can

shed. There is a vacant place in the community, for one whose hand was ready in every good cause has gone. As a community shall we not open our hearts to the many lessons that his life and death suggest? The bells are tolling, and day after day the church-yard gate swings back to admit some sleeper to his last earthly resting-place. Out and away we must all go, and only as grasping the hand of Christ, we weave in and out of the web of life the golden threads of duty, love, and charity, will our flight be joyous.

But to the family whose home has been made vacant what shall I say? Although anxiously and carefully you watched your father's last days, guarding him against those exposures and dangers incident to his age, yet you knew that the time of his departure was not far distant. Still, his death has torn your hearts, and opened there a fountain of grief. Still, when you listen deeply to the under language of your hearts you will say, It is well. The inevitable hour of parting must come. It has come, and you, I know, with the brooding Spirit of our Heavenly Father to assist you, will bear it calmly. The fragrance of his life is with you ; the memory of his paternal goodness has been quickened by his death ; from these you can never be separated. He has cast a shadow of blessing upon your lives, fixed, immovable. You will go and lay him tenderly beneath the sod to-day—the ultimate resting place of us all, and then you will return to the old home-life again. You will miss him sorely ; miss his coming and going footstep ; miss the accustomed care you bestowed upon him. For days, and weeks, and long months, you will ponder over his life and death, and all the while holier and sweeter will his memory grow. And you will find, I doubt not, that his death was but the culminating point of his blessed earthy influ-

ence over you, imparting to your being an undercurrent of deeper spiritual thought and sympathy. And then, I pray and believe, that the spirit of song will silently and joyfully steal into your hearts, that you will sing of that heaven into which father and mother have both gone, and be drawn yearningly towards it.

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The following is copied from an editorial in the newspaper heretofore referred to :

"OBITUARY.

"The thread of life worn with age sometimes suddenly snaps, blending time with eternity, losing mortality in immortality. A life-cord has been suddenly broken, and a cloud of gloom swept over our city on the morning of the 10th, at the announcement that Dr. James M. Sturdevant sat in his office, dead. He was found in a rocking chair in an easy, sitting posture, as if in undisturbed sleep. He had for two previous nights stayed with a very sick patient, and his friends supposed that he had again been detained by one of these professional visits ; which accounts for his not being missed by his ever watchful family.

" He had till nine o'clock the evening before been about our streets as usual, and in apparent good health.

" On Sunday morning his daughter went to his office to ascertain the cause of his absence. She found the door of the office open, the gas on and her father silent. Feeling that something was wrong, but not comprehending the situation, she called two gentlemen who chanced to be near, who realized at once that Dr. Sturdevant was dead.

" Appearances indicate that his death must have occurred before ten o'clock the previous evening. At nine

o'clock, he was visited by a patient who reported him then to have been in his usual health. A post mortem examination was held by Dr. West, on Sunday evening, in the presence of Drs. Reid, Sutton, Whaley, Flandreau, Evans, and Haskill, who decided the cause of his death to be paralysis of the heart, with sudden congestion of the lungs. The lungs were found to be badly discolored, and adhering to the walls of the chest. Generally, deceased enjoyed good health, though at times suffering from attacks of pleurisy. We can but feel the deepest sympathy for the grief-stricken family, obliged to separate from a venerable and aged parent without one fond adieu. * * * Dr. Sturdevant was reputed to be one of Rome's ablest practitioners, from which practice he might have amassed wealth, had not his sympathetic nature prompted him to be a bountiful dispenser of his worldly goods. * * The poor will hold his memory sacred, and the good remember him for his deeds of charity to the poor. He was a life-long member of the Baptist church, holding responsible official positions within its jurisdiction.

"The deceased had four children, two of whom, Mrs. Gustavus M. Palmer and Mary Sturdevant, reside in this city, and who were most affectionately and dutifully lightening his cares through declining years, and his earnest and most heartfelt expressions of gratitude showed his appreciations of their kindnesses. He has two sons abroad, each holding prominent rank among business men.

"Dr. James M. Sturdevant has passed away. The places that knew him in the body, will know him no more. All things earthly pass away. The beautiful child dies before doing life's work, like the bud which is nipped, to be remembered only for its loveliness. As the opening flower is stricken by the blast before its charm and fragrance has blended with surrounding nature, and is missed only from

its garden bed, so is he who dies while merging into manhood sooner forgotten.

"The bud that blossoms into flower, and sends its fragrance out wafted from zephyr to breeze, permeating all nature, and then casting its petals to the four winds of heaven, while it bears fruit for the future generations of flowers, is like the old man that dies. The flower is not dead. Its fragrance lives. Its fruit decays to produce a more lovely flower. Thus the venerable man dies still to live here in loving hearts, and live forever beyond this changeful vale.

"While the revered form of Dr. Sturdevant lies breathless in the chilled atmosphere of the grave, his noble acts, like the fragrance of flowers, still permeates and lives in the minds of all who knew him. In imagination his footsteps will ever be heard, and instinctively the passer-by turns aside to bid him welcome. In memory the kind greeting is respoken, and all forget that the body died because his whole life is like a net, interwoven, spread out beyond and around. He, of whom we write, and who so lately walked, talked and smiled upon our streets, and at his home, will ever dwell in the hearts of his relatives and numerous friends."

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A carefully prepared notice by Mr. Pessinger, the editor, appeared in the *Rome Sentinel*, and in the *Roman Citizen*, prepared by A. Sanford, the editor.

## AN INCIDENT.

(From *Once-a-Month*, Published by the Young Men's Christian Association, Rome, New York, August, 1873.)

"It is related that at the funeral of our late townsman, Dr. S., as the procession neared the cemetery, a little girl of 12 or 14 years, plainly but neatly clad, was noticed picking her way along the road-side, through the rain and the mud, and again at the grave, a silent and tearful mourner. As the cortege left the ground, a party whose notice she had particularly attracted invited her into a carriage and offered her a ride back to the city. In reply to the questions of her friends her little story was told. The good Doctor had attended her mother during a severe sickness, and had afterwards refused to accept any return for his services; and now he was dead she wanted to follow him to his burial. Though poor and young, she could show her gratitude by this little act of respect.

"There was a grand funeral. A crowded church, with flower-strewn casket and array of mourners, with eloquent eulogy, with pealing organ and tolling bell, with procession, solemn and slow: yet in that little child of poverty, trudging her way along through the storm, actuated alone by the pure love of a grateful heart, there was a tribute to the memory of the good man, sweeter, truer, grander than them all. We almost seem to catch the echo from above: 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these----ye have done it unto me.'"

## RESOLUTIONS.

"At a meeting held by the Physicians of the city of Rome, August 11, 1873, Dr. Whaley was chosen to preside and Dr. Reid as secretary. The following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted:

"Dr. James M. Sturdevant, of the city of Rome, a member of the Oneida County Medical Society for nearly a quarter of a century, has in the Providence of God been removed by death from the scenes of his early labors.

"As a member of the medical profession, he deserved and acquired an enviable reputation for industry and ability, and this with his charity and constant labor in seeking to relieve the pain and suffering of his patients, won for him many and dear friends.

"As a citizen he was patriotic, as an individual of pure life, as a neighbor kind and benevolent, as a friend considerate and faithful. He was a sincere Christian, and evinced his faith by his works.

"In memory of his worth, and of our loss, we, his professional brethren of the city of Rome, who knew him well, and loved him, make this brief record:

"*Resolved*, That we are deeply grieved by the death of Dr. James M. Sturdevant, taken from us ripe in years and full of honors; we, his associates, feel that we have lost one, who, from his good qualities of heart, was ever ready to impart wise and judicious counsel, a friend whom we revered.

"*Resolved*, That we recall with pride and pleasure, and will hold in memory his many virtues, and unblemished life, his marked exemplification as a member of our profession, of that industry, honesty and fidelity to duty which must characterize him who would worthily practice our profession.

"*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with the family of the deceased, in their great bereavement and sorrow, and offer them our condolence.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be presented to the family of the deceased, and also furnished our city papers for publication.

"*Resolved*, That we invite our neighboring physicians to attend with us the funeral of the deceased in a body.

"At a meeting of the *Oneida County Medical Society*, held at Rome, January 13, 1874: Dr. Coventry inquired if there had been any action taken by the physicians in regard to the death of Dr. J. M. Sturdevant, who was for many years a member of the society, and, on motion of Dr. M. C. West, Dr. E. J. Lawton was chosen to prepare a memorial upon the life of Dr. Sturdevant and present the same at the annual meeting in April thereafter."

# APPENDIX.

## Appendix A.

Nobody can possibly determine for another, which out of all possible ends of life shall be to him his innermost point of honor, or how he shall deal with it. The majority of people have no points of honor, and, indeed, no conscience, except toward persons. Enthusiasm they do not understand, though they are ready enough to take the benefit of anything that enthusiasm does for them.

Those familiar with Dr. Sturdevant's strenuous efforts for direct, ponderable, estimable, practical results; of the moral power which compelled his unceasing efforts, till the grim monster fastened him still at his work, for the amelioration of human suffering, were often disposed to blame "the passionate patience of genius," which seemingly wrought enduring wrong to his family. But the fact that "the passionate patience of genius *does* so often meet its rewards, even in this life, must be taken as God's "answer out of the whirlwind," that there is in that passionate patience an *element* which he approves. The success which sometimes follows the passionate patience of genius, which is crime, may have in it the same accents of approval *for that element*, though it becomes a means of chastisement. What is that element? It is the last analysis of conscience. It is the very principle upon which every human soul meets, or some day *must* meet God. Christianized it makes the Christian martyr. In any case it makes the martyr, or the hero. It is the point of honor kindled in the fire of eternal ideas to a peak, that lays its shining spire close under the very footstool of the Throne. Though it is I *will* toward men, it is I *must* toward heaven. It is that last obedience of the soul which the world can not but call defiance. It is the battle of the human spirit to redeem its pledges of self-denial; the integrity of its being is impawned upon *honorable persistence* in the effort, not on success, for that is the choice of the Father, but in keeping so far as his will is concerned, the line of march, and orbit of movement, upon which the forming hand first set him.—*Good Words.*

## Appendix B.

### Hypodermic Medication. By James M. Sturdevant, M. D., Rome.

In the few words which I have to say on this subject, I will first refer to this method of medication in the hands of others; and, second, relate some cases and observations of my own experience with it. Doubtless, you all have noticed in the Journals, that Dr. Alexander Wood, of Edinburgh, has brought to the notice

of the profession a *novel method* of medication for severe neuralgia. His method consists in applying a strong sedative solution, as near to the diseased neurilemma as possible. The results were decidedly satisfactory. For a full account of his method and its results, I will refer you to the Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journ., for 1855. I will now refer to a few cases which have come under the notice of others, since that time.

In the British Medical Journal, for 1857, a case is related by Dr. George Lindsay Bonner, which well illustrates both the method, and its effects. The patient was a lady of a delicate constitution (her age is not given), who was suffering under a severe and protracted sciatica. The case had resisted all the remedies which were used, for more than two months *Externally*, she had applied a strong embrocation of tincture camphor compound, with Fleming's Tincture of aconite, with but partial relief for a short time only; then fomentations of hot turpentine were applied, till the limb was made tender, with a like result; next, acupuncturation was resorted to, over the hip, and also over the whole length of the limb. And next, the modified cautery was put in requisition, until the skin became blistered in patches over the limb. All of these methods gave only a temporary relief; and finally, proved utterly abortive. *Internally*, she took the saccharine carbonate of iron, with anodynes; next, iodide of potassa, with sarsaparilla; and finally, arsenic was given, as far as it seemed prudent.

Dr. Bonner goes on to say, that no improvement was produced by the treatment; her strength was much impaired by the continued pain, which had now become excruciating; her limb had become useless; her sleep had departed; her very existence was miserable; the slightest motion of her body, or her limb, would bring on a paroxysm of pain that seemed to be unendurable. Dr. Wood was now called, in consultation, who at once proceeded to apply his new method, in the following manner.

By means of a perforated needle, attached to a small syringe, he injected twenty minims of Batley's solution of opium, about *one and a half* inches below the integument of the hip, near the sciatic notch. The effect was manifested instantly. In a moment, she was sawing the air with both hands, as if she was in a dream; in a moment or two more her hands fell powerless upon the bed: she was in a sound sleep, with slow breathing. This was on the 5th of October. She slept all night; awoke on the morning of the 6th, free from pain, refreshed, and delighted with her good night's sleep. At 7 o'clock, A. M., another injection was given, with a like happy effect, but it did not produce such singular effects as in the evening previous. She slept most of the day; at 8 o'clock, P. M., she had no pain, but upon pressure with the thumb, over the upper part of the nerve, there was an obtuse soreness, which was more acute in the course of the nerve below; another sedative was used as before; these were used *twice* a day, for a few days, and then omitted. When the pain manifested a tendency to return, the sedative was used. She did not require the sedative after the 20th of October; from this time, she convalesced finely. In 1857, near two years after this occurrence, this woman was in the enjoyment of excellent health, having never had any pain in her hip, or limb, since that time. But, as a drawback to this mode of proceed-

ing, it was found that, when the injections were repeatedly applied in, or very near the same locality, occasionally abscesses would ensue.

You will find that, in the British Medical Journal, for January 8, 1859, that Dr. Charles Hunter, of the St. George's Hospital, London, has made numerous experiments on *animal and man*, to ascertain whether it is necessary to success, that the injections should be localized to the seat of pain. His conclusion is, that it is *not necessary* to localize the medication, as the following experiments clearly showed: 1st. He injected a few drops of water, holding in solution the *twelfth* part of a grain of strychnine, into the cellular membrane of a cat: in *one* minute, it was *tetanic;* in *two* minutes, it was dead. 2d. He put half a grain of morphia, in the same manner, into the cellular membrane of a rabbit; in *five* minutes, it was comatose, and remained so for four hours. 3d. He injected half a grain of acetate of morphia into the subcutaneous tissue of the arm of a girl, sixteen years of age, for severe chorea of all the muscles of the body; in *two* minutes, the muscles had ceased their irregular movements: in five minutes, the girl was asleep. 4th. A man afflicted with the tic doloreux, was put to sleep in a very few minutes. 5th. A case of *mania a potu*, was put to sleep in a few minutes, with three-fourths of a grain of acetate of morphia, and slept many hours; the same man took the same quantity, three-fourths of a grain, into his stomach, dissolved in *one* ounce of water; it took one hour to put him to sleep, and then, he slept only one and a half hours. 6th. A half grain was given, hypodermically, to a healthy rabbit; it was stupid in *two* minutes, and asleep in five minutes; the narcotism lasted *seven* hours; some days after, the same animal took the same quantity into its stomach, through a gum catheter; for a long time he waited for the result: the animal did not get to sleep; no narcotism followed. 7th. This was a case of wakefulness, with excitement, from a gun-shot wound of the foot; the bullet had been extracted, while the patient was under the influence of chloroform; the excitement continued to grow worse, till no sleep could be obtained; he took morphine, opium, and hyosciamus, but he became more and more irritable from their use. Half a grain of acetate of morphia was injected into the cellular membrane of the right arm, at 9½ o'clock, P. M.; in five minutes he was asleep, and slept all night; he did not need the sedative again; in a few days he was well.

But it is unnecessary to multiply these cases further; Dr. Hunter has related a number of cases of sciatica, all of which were treated in the same manner, with entire success. In one case, where the disease affected the *right* leg, all of the injections were applied to the *left* arm. Delirium tremens and chorea were also treated successfully. Mania and tetanus, or lock jaw, were also much benefited by the sleep which was produced.

I will now proceed to give my own experience with this mode of medication, by stating a few cases.

*Case 1st.*—J. Hughs, aged 70 years, of infirm and feeble constitution, is subject to attacks of severe tic doloreux, in the right infra orbitary nerve. He has seldom passed a week, for several years, without having this tic. He has found tolerable relief by the use of chloride of zinc, dissolved in ether, according to Hupeland and Hanck, but in a few days or weeks, at most, the spasms would re-

turn again. I found him suffering severely, on the 1st January, 1860, and gave an injection into the cellular membrane of the right arm, in *fifteen* minutes the pain was gone, in *thirty* minutes he was asleep, and slept eight hours. January 2d, no pain; January 10th, no pain since; January 15th, he perceived it coming on; I anticipated the paroxysm by using the sedative as before, and he has not required the operation since.

*Case 2d.*—Mr. Golding, aged 73, of temperate habits, and broken constitution; received a fall about the first of November last, which bruised his hip; he soon found relief by the usual remedies. A week or so afterwards, he had a severe pain in the hip, which extended down the limb to the foot of the same side. It was sciatica. The tongue was coated, appetite impaired, bowels constipated; directed calomel cathartic, blisters to the hip and limb below, and morphine to procure sleep, three grains of colchicum; by these he got a tolerable relief, but the pain soon returned. On December 2d, I found him suffering very severe pain in the hip and limb; he said he had not slept for four days and nights on account of the severe pain. I resolved to produce narcotism by the hypodermic method; for this purpose, I dissolved three-fourths grains of sulph. morphine, in twenty-five drops of water, and inserted it into the cellular tissue of the right arm. In twenty minutes he was free from pain; in forty-five minutes he was asleep, and slept ten hours; but he was made to wake up once or twice during the time; December 3d, he had no pain, and said he was well; 10th, no pain since; 25th, I asked if he had any pain. "Not a bit," said he, "you cured me;" January 1, 1860, he had a little pain and soreness in the limb, below the knee, and passed the night somewhat restless. I placed the sedative into the leg above the ancle; he slept nine hours, and when he awoke, he was confused and wild a little, but in a short time was all right. I think the dose was a little too large. January 8th, has no pain, feels well; January 12th, he feels pain in this limb and in the other also, but it is not of the neuralgic character, but more of the character which pertains to chronic rheumatism; M. M., a strong liniment, and applied a flannel bandage; 15th, he has no pain since; 28th, no pain, is as well as ever.

*Case 3d.*—H. W., aged 65 years, is of intemperate habits, and feeble, impaired constitution. In June last, he suffered from a paralysis of the muscular coat of the bladder, by which he was unable to evacuate his urine. He was obliged to resort to the catheter for about *three* weeks, and by the use of appropriate remedies, he soon recovered from this difficulty. On the 19th of November last, while walking a couple of miles, he was attacked with a spasmodic pain in or near the left groin, and which, in a couple of days, became fixed in the sciatic nerve, where it escapes from the sciatic notch. The pain followed that nerve, and its branches, to the foot of that side; tongue was coated, and bowels constipated; M. M. alterative cathartic, blisters to the hip and limb, and anodynes to procure sleep, and these were followed by the tinct. of colchicum seed, *three* times a day, which produced a free catharsis, and relief followed. I did not see the case again for some weeks. On December 28th, I was called to this man. I found him suffering intensely from sciatica, and he also had a violent, darting, spasmodic pain in the inner side of the limb from the ancle to the groin. He said that he had not slept

in three weeks; this statement needs qualifying a little. He was obliged to sit in his chair day and night, and towards morning he would get a little sleep; but the pain was so intense that he could not rest, or remain in bed. He was emaciated, had lost his appetite, seemed prostrated and used up for the want of rest; bowels again constipated. I gave a cathartic, and used the hypodermic sedative, into the cellular membrane, over the sciatic notch. In twenty minutes he was free from pain; he could not produce any pain by pressure, by walking, or by twisting the limb in any direction. In forty-five minutes he was asleep, which continued ten hours. To use his own expression, he said, that "in *one hour, I was in heaven.*" December 29th: He had no pain, no vertigo, headache or nausea. Towards evening, had a little pain, but it was milder in its character. Repeat the injection into the left arm, with the same effect as before. December 31st, 4 o'clock, P. M.: He has some pain. Repeat the sedative, gave podophyline and septandrium, each 2 grains, three times a day, as a cathartic. January 1, 1860: He feels some pain, which seems more like chronic rheumatism; it has lost the neuralgic characteristics. I gave quinine, three times a day; gave also same quantity of morph. (three-fourths gr.), by the stomach, at night. It was *two* hours before he got free from pain, and then passed a restless night. January 2d: Gave hypodermic sedative, three-fourths gr. morph. In twenty minutes he was free from pain. He had eight hours' sound sleep. January 6th: He has used no sedative since the 2d, and is evidently improving. January 14th: Same rheumatic pain in both limbs. Applied a liniment and flannel bandages. February 1st: Slowly improving.

From the above *facts* and *cases*, I am prepared to make the following deductions: 1st. The hypodermic method of medication is *far preferable* to the method of Dr. Wood, for two reasons: first, the operation gives less pain; second, it is not liable to be followed by abscesses. It is preferable to stomachic doses in severe neuralgia for the following reasons: first, it produces a more decided and speedy relief from pain; second, it is followed, in every instance, by sound and refreshing sleep; third, it is less liable to derange the stomach and bowels; fourth, it does not produce those cerebral disturbances, as vertigo, headache, faintness, nausea; fifth, when the pain returns, it is modified and milder in its character; sixth, it requires a smaller dose of medicine. The reason for this assertion is obvious; the whole amount of the sedative is placed directly in contact with the absorbents, by which it is at once conveyed to the brain and nervous centres, and immediately produces the desired narcosis, whereas, when given by the stomach, we only get the effect of that uncertain portion which happens to be absorbed; and its absorption occurs, not at one time, but at uncertain, irregular, and distant intervals, and if narcotism is effected at all, it is liable to be of that unhappy, unequal, and disturbed character which we have so often witnessed.

## Appendix C.

## Extract from an Address before the Oneida County Medical Society, by Dr. Sturdevant, in 1859.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The strong and abiding interest which I feel for the prosperity, usefulness, and success of this institution of learning, constitutes my only apology for appearing before you at this time.

I am not accustomed to speak to assemblies like this, and, therefore, you will look in vain for any attempt at a display of eloquence from me.

Should I succeed in bringing before you some plain and substantial *ideas* that will be worth remembering, I shall have attained my purpose on the present occasion

The various professions, callings, and useful pursuits among men, originate in the *idea* of convenience, utility, and the necessities of the human race. The desire to obtain Divine knowledge and wisdom is productive of the necessity for the clerical profession. A wish universally prevails to *obtain* and *enjoy* our just and equitable rights, which lays a foundation for the legal profession. The idea of obtaining a knowledge of the various branches of science, produces the necessity for the profession of teaching.

The instinctive desire implanted in every human breast, to preserve life, repel and avoid disease, originates the necessity for the medical profession. As the foundation for this profession, and essential to its cultivation and successful pursuit, lies the science of anatomy, which will claim our attention for a few moments at this time.

### its history.

The word anatomy strictly signifies a dissection; but this definition gives a very imperfect idea of the science to which it is now applied.

Anatomy, as now understood, is that branch of natural science which displays a knowledge of the fibers, tissues, and organs of the human body.

During the primitive ages of the world, anatomy was little cultivated as a science, consequently, surgery was undeveloped. In later ages, when science became better appreciated, and medical men felt the importance of a knowledge of the human organism and its physiological characteristics, *religious scruples* and prejudice forbade the opening of the dead body, to inspect the internal organs, consequently students of anatomy were limited to the dissection of animals to obtain a knowledge of the viscera and their functions, which might possibly serve to some little extent as a guide to understand similar organs and functions in the human subject. The first branch, then, of this science, which was studied from animals, was what is called comparative anatomy, and was practically of but little use, from the fact of the different types of the animal kingdom differed as much in their *internal* structure as in their *external* forms.

Aristotle, who lived some 390 years B. C., was the first man who gave accurate descriptions of the internal organs of animals, and for many centuries after him little progress was made to develope the science by actual dissection and observation.

Hippocrates, who was styled the father of medical science, and the eminent physician of Cos, lived about 460 years B. C. He was probably a contemporary with Ezra, Nehemiah, and Malachi, of the scriptures. He was not the originator of anatomy or surgery; this may fairly be inferred from the fact that none of the works ascribed to him is devoted to anatomy. From his medical and surgical instructions, and from his physiological remarks, we learned that he had obtained some accurate knowledge of *osteology*, or, the anatomy of the bones; but, from his descriptions of the brain and the heart, and their respective functions, it may be inferred that very little was known of human anatomy in his day. The first important development of human anatony of which we have an authentic account, took place at Alexandria, in Egypt, during the reign of the Ptolemies, 300 years B. C. Erasistratus, of Chios, and Herophilus, of Chalcedon, are mentioned by Galen as eminent anatomists of the Alexandrian school. Herophilus is said to have obtained permission to open and inspect the bodies of living criminals, to acquire a knowledge of internal organs and their functions. But whether the dissections were performed on living criminals, we are disposed to doubt. The writings of Celsus, who lived in the first century after Christ, show that he cultivated anatomy. Claudius Galenus, a celebrated physician of Pergamus, made good progress in this science.

Galen was born at Alexandria, 131 years after Christ. He collected the works and writings of his predecessors, and pursued the study of anatomy by the dissection of animals. He first showed that *arteries* in the living animal contained blood, and not air alone, as had been supposed by his predecessors.

But Galen failed to discover the motion of the blood in the vessels. This was reserved for William Harvey, who was born in 1578, A. C. Previous to this time the blood was supposed to stagnate in the veins of the *living* body, as it was found to be in the corpse.

During the middle ages, the natural sciences, neglected by the Christians, were mainly cultivated by the Arabs. But the Mohammedan religion strictly forbade the dissection of the human body, consequently little or no advancement was made by them, and their physicians were obliged to rely mainly upon the schools of Alexandria for their knowledge of anatomy and surgery, and chiefly upon the works of Galen. But, in the progress of time, the spirit of religious liberty and commercial enterprise revived the cultivation of the arts and sciences in Italy, in the fourteenth century. Mondini Di Luzzi, professor of anatomy in the University of Bologna, the year 1315, first publicly dissected *two* human subjects before a class of medical students. He shortly afterward published a description of the organs from direct observation and dissection. This, with the works of Galen, served as a text-book for the schools until the sixteenth century, when the study of anatomy became general by actual dissection in the schools of Italy. Many important organs still bear the names of eminent Italians who first described them accurately at this early period of modern advancement; and from this time forward human anatomy has been studied from actual dissection and observation in those countries of Europe where religious scruples offered least resistance to this made of proceeding. First Italy, then Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Ger-

many, France, England, and America, have furnished names of eminence in the cultivation and advancement of the science of anatomy.

But popular prejudices have retarded or hindered the free dissection of human bodies in medical schools until a very recent period, in many states of Europe, and also in this country. But the love of science *now* prevails sufficiently in civilized countries to allow the study of anatomy *free scope* for its development, as a necessary basis of correct medical and surgical purposes, as well as for a general knowledge of the human body and the intimate structure of organized beings. Anatomy is now one of the most important and interesting branches of natural science, and its various departments have become so extensive as to require separate divisions and distinct methods of analysis.

We have, then, Comparative Anatomy, including every type of animal organization, including man as one of the types of the animal kingdom, and Human Anatomy, as a distinct branch of study, in connection with Physiology, Pathology, and Theraputics. These are again subdivided into distinct branches, as Surgical Anatomy, or the anatomy of distinct regions; Descriptive, or Special Anatomy; Hisiological or General Anatomy; and, Microscopical or Minute Anatomy. We have a few words to say upon some of these sub-divisions.

All will at once perceive the utility and importance of surgical anatomy, which teaches the relations of organs to each other, in each region of the body, as the positions, forms, dimensions, structure and peculiarities of nerves, blood vessels, muscles, glands, and membranes in the head, trunk, and limbs of the body; a correct knowledge of which is *indispensable* to guide the surgeon in the performance of operations upon the living body. He must know precisely *where* to *cut*, what to cut, and *what* to *avoid*, as the life of the patient in many operations may depend upon the anatomical knowledge of the operator. It is no less important that the physician should understand general and descriptive anatomy, which gives us a knowledge of every tissue and organ in the system, as the bones, muscles, blood vessels, and nerves, the respiratory, digestive, and the secretory organs of the body. General Anatomy also teaches a knowledge of the *different* tissues which go to make up *particular* organs, or a class of organs, as the *three* coats of the *stomach* and bowels: 1st, the mucus, or inner coat; 2d, the muscular, or middle coat; and 3d, the outer, or peritonial coat of the stomach. Now an irritation or inflammation may invade either of these tissues, each of which manifests a different train of symptoms, and each requires a distinct method of treatment. Again, there are *three* different structures found in the lungs: 1st, the mucus membrane, which lines the bronchial tubes and air cells; 2d, the parenchyma, or substance of the lungs, properly so-called; and 3d, the investing membrane which covers the lungs and lines the cavity of the chest, called the pleury. It is a matter of almost every day's observation, that either of these tissues may become diseased; each has a different name, the Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy. Each is attended by different phenomena or symptoms, and each requires a different treatment.

The study of anatomy is also for the unprofessional in the community, as a source of important information in general, and also as a subject of practical util-

ity. It has well been said that the proper study of mankind is man. Man is said to be the noblest work of God. Where, in the universe, has the Creator displayed more consummate wisdom, power, and goodness, than he has manifested in the wonderfully complicated structure of the human body?

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## Appendix D.

An Address to the surviving members of the Oneida County Medical Society, at its Semi-Centennial Anniversary, at Utica, July 7, 1856. The address was in response to a sentiment, "*The Survivors of the First Annual Meeting,*" which was held in 1806.

Mr. President, Honored Fathers, and Gentlemen:

Some two thousand years ago a festal occasion was held, at which it was said, the *best* of the *wine* was *kept till* the *last* of the *feast*. I am happy to perceive that it is likely to *be so* on the present occasion.

The few thoughts which I have to communicate at the present time may be considered under *three* distinct heads, to wit:

I. The Origin of this Medical Society.
II. The Prosecution of the Enterprise. And
III. The Results which have Followed.

1. *Origin.* Fifty years ago this day a number of medical gentlemen assembled in the village of Utica; after mature deliberation, and a *full* and *free* expression of their sentiments and feelings, united themselves in a *common brotherhood*, and according to the laws of the State of New York, established the *Medical Society* of the *County of Oneida.*

Their numbers were but few and small, but their object was noble, grand, sublime. They had acquired a knowledge of the *healing art*, as taught at that early day. Having definitely fixed in their minds the object to be accomplished; having surveyed the field of operation which they were to occupy; having carefully and deliberately settled the question in their minds as to the probable chances of success or defeat in accomplishing their purpose, they *manly took their stand.*

They were warmed with the noble and generous impulses of youth, early manhood, and mature years; their bosoms swelled with emotion; their hearts glowed with ardent enthusiasm for the profession of medicine. They planted themselves upon those fundamental principles and laws which constitute the foundation of their profession. Having taken their stand on this immovable rock, they raised their banner, unfurled it to the breeze, and inscribed upon its ample folds their motto, "life, human life, health and happiness to the race of man." This gentlemen, is the commencement of this enterprise, and such the foundation upon which the medical profession in this County now stands.

2. *The Prosecution.* They had chosen a profession the most difficult to obtain;

obtained only by the most intense study and application. It is based upon the laws of God, as manifested in the physiological system; laws which have been brought to light by patient investigation, careful observation, and diligent inquiry; a profession embracing the largest field of inquiry, and the most ample scope to investigation.

It comprehends the Anatomy of the human system; Physiology, or the functions of the system in a state of health; Pathology, or the functions as manifested in a condition of disease; Chemistry, organic and inorganic, animal, vegetable, and mineral; Therapeutics, Materia Medica, Pharmacy; the theory and practice of Medicine and Surgery; Medical Jurisprudence; Optics; Diseases of Women and Children; Magnetism; Electro-Magnetism; Galvanism, and other branches which it is not necessary to mention. Here are fields of science sufficient for the highest ambition, broad and ample, addressing themselves to the acutest observation, and which challenge the most profound investigation.

This Society was organized in the infancy of the profession in this section of the State. The wise counsels which pervaded their deliberations, and the wisdom of the measures which were adopted are clearly evinced by the results which have followed. To that small yet respectable number—tweny-nine—there has been a steady and healthful increase of members, both as it respects numbers, scientific attainments, and skillful application of the principles of their profession; so that at the present moment, notwithstanding the many deaths and removals which have occurred, the numbers of legal practitioners of medicine in this county may be counted by hundreds. Our Society takes a high position, and will not suffer by a comparison with any society in the State. At the commencement, medical men were few, but medical authors and writers were fewer still. Your text-books might have been Cullen, Richerand, Darwin, Denman, Benjamin Bell, and Chepeldon's old anatomy; the last of which a man might read in a day, and retire to bed at night as wise as he was in the morning. On this side of the water not a text-book had been written. The five volumes of Benjamin Rush had appeared in 1798. A few small monographs, treatises, memoirs, dissertations, etc., etc., had appeared from the pens of William Currie, Benjamin S. Barton, John Davidge, Richard Bagley, Waterhouse, Mease, Caldwell, and John Redman Coxe, with a few periodicals. These constituted the sum total of cis-atlantic medical writers and medical literature of that day.

Honored Fathers, under these forbidding circumstances, and with these scattered lights to illumine your pathway, you buckled on your armor and marched to your several fields of toil and labor. From that day to this your progress has been onward; and onward still, your watchword. Under fatigues, toils, and labors, you fainted not; amid the raging elements and the blasts of midnight winds, you faltered not; through winter and summer, through cold and heat, hunger and thirst, by night or by day; through tempests of snow, hail and rain; sometimes over mountains, hills, and rocks, fallen trees, stumps, and roots; sometimes through the swamps, streams, and mud; sometimes on foot, on horseback, on snow-shoes, in a boat, on a bridge, on a plank, on a floating log, or fording the streams, whenever and wherever the cry of pain and disease saluted your ears,

there you found your way. To the rich, to the poor, to the high, to the low, to the widow, to the fatherless and orphan, to all; all shared, and all were equally the partakers of your kindness and care. Whatever the character of the disease; however malignant and pestilential, you nobly rushed to the field of action, to relieve pain and suffering, to quiet the troubled breast; and where death had seized its victim, you were present and lingered around the couch, anxious to smooth the passage to the grave, to wipe the tear of sorrow, and calm the troubled breast.

Honored Fathers, you have seen your fellows and companions fall by your side; you paused to lay them in the grave, and shed the tear of sorrow over their last resting place. One after another fo your number has gone; gone never to return. Fifty long years have passed, dnring which time you have remained at your posts, nobly sustaining the honor of your profession, and strewing along the pathway of your lives, honor, blessing, peace, and happiness.

3. *The Results.* To-day, honored Fathers, we, your brethren and juniors in the same profession have gathered around you to contemplate the mighty results of your enterprise. Look for a moment at the present attainments of the profession, not only in this County, but in the State and Nation; it all belongs to one common history. And what do we behold? Instead of a few members remotely scattered here and there, we can count their numbers by thousands, and twice ten thousands. And among the number some, yes, many of the best intellects, the most scientific students and profound investigators that can be found in this or any other age. From east to west, north to south, medical colleges and schools have been established; these are well supplied with able and learned faculties of instruction. These institutions are graduating their hundreds of students annually. Medical authors and writers are greatly multiplied; the number of volumes of standard works issued from the American press annually is very large. Many of these works possess a rare merit and value, and are regarded as such in Europe, and have been translated into foreign languages. These works, together with the periodical journals and papers of vast numbers and variety, are spread broadcast throughout the country, and constitute a literature—an American medical literature—approaching, if not equal to, the literature of any other country. These, honored Fathers, are some of the achievements which have been accomplished in your day.

We thank you for the noble stand you took; for the firmness, decision, and wisdom displayed in its prosecution. We congratulate you upon the happy results. Words fail to express the emotions and gratitude of our hearts, for the virtuous example, the Christian graces, sacred and holy influences, which have been scattered along your pathway.

Honored Fathers: And now, as we behold your trembling step, your furrowed brow, and your whitened locks, the unmistakable impress of three score years and ten, of labor, toil, and care, we rejoice that at the end of your race you will receive a full and ample reward for all your toils.

May your end be peaceful and happy, as your lives have been virtuous and holy; and as your setting sun approaches the western horizon and drops behind

the hills, its rays delight to linger upon the eastern mountain tops, and paint the eastern cloud with a pencil of gold, so may the hallowed recollection of your pious example and Christian virtues long remain in the hearts of your brethren.

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## Appendix E.

### An Address delivered by Dr. J. M. Sturdevant, before the Oneida Medical Society at its semi-annual meeting, held at Rome, February 13, 1859.

Gentlemen:

In assuming the duties of the Chair on this occasion, it is proper that I should indulge in a few remarks.

It becomes us to recognize and acknowledge the goodness and mercy of the all-wise Supreme Being, who holds our lives and our destiny in his own hand, while the revolution of another year has brought to us another semi-annual meeting of this Society.

I am happy, therefore, in being enabled to extend to each and to all of you a full, a cheerful, and a cordial welcome on the present occasion.

To be admitted as a member of a medical society at the present day, is an honor of no small degree. But to be called to assume the duties and responsibilities of presiding over the deliberations of the *Oneida County Medical Society*, a Society which occupies so distinguished a rank in Medical Science and Medical Literature, a Society second to none in the State of New York, is assuming a position to which I have not aspired, and one which I feel incompetent to fill; but in response to your kindness, and in obedience to your partiality and favor, I will cheerfully yield to your wishes, relying upon your indulgence and co-operation.

Gentlemen, I regard the medical profession as the noblest vocation on earth; a profession which reaches back to the remotest antiquity, embracing in its catalogue of votaries the most illustrious names of ancient or modern times; names illustrious and eminent for philosophical inquiry, profound investigation, close habits of study, acute observation, sound and discriminating judgment; names which stamped their own impress upon the age in which they lived, and which have been transmitted to us and to posterity as bright models of virtue, philanthropy, and benevolence.

If human life, health, and happiness constitute the greatest earthly good, surely then, that profession, whose sole object is to secure and perpetuate all these, assumes a rank and importance second to no other calling.

It may be useful to state in a brief manner, some of the objects of our meeting. The primary and principal object of our Medical Society is, to promote and sustain the interests, the honor and the usefulness of the medical profession. To carry out this desirable and noble object, we have placed our hands, pledged our honor, and consecrated our lives.

Our fathers, more than fifty years ago, established this Society, and in its culture and growth they toiled, labored, and died. They had the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing the little acorn, which they tremblingly deposited in the soil of Oneida County, soon begin to germinate, its roots began to sink into the earth, its stem appeared above the surface, and in their day, whilst under their own fostering culture, its roots struck deep, and deeper still into the soil, its large trunk stood proudly erect, stretching its long arms to the clouds, while upon its topmost branches is spread a canopy of green.

So has it been with the medical profession in Oneida County. Its beginning was small, but its growth and increase have been steady, healthful, vigorous, and strong. At the present time it will not suffer by comparison with the other professions in this county, while it sustains a rank and position along side of the other learned societies in this State and Nation.

Gentlemen, the interests and destiny of this noble profession are committed to our care; we have accepted the responsible trust, and shall we not redeem the pledge which we have made to our fathers? Shall we not with diligence and fidelity in our sacred vocation, maintain the dignity, honor, and usefulness of our profession in this county, and transmit the same unsoiled, untarnished, vigorous, healthy, and strong to posterity? I answer, we will; you all respond, we will do it.

The prevention and cure of disease are among the primary objects of our profession. These two objects should, therefore, claim our diligent attention and careful study. The prevention of disease, requires us to comprehend and fully understand the various causes which produce it.

To discuss this subject as its importance demands, would lead me beyond my present purpose. I will only say that the causes of disease are numerous; their name may be said to be legion; they surround us on every hand; they lurk about our path from the cradle to the grave.

The air which we breathe, the food which we eat, the water with which we slake our thirst, the clothing by which we warm and adorn our bodies, the light of the sun so necessary to cheer and enliven our path, the gentle zephyr which fans and cools the heated brow, all become, when perverted or misapplied, sources of disease. In fact, I might truly say, that all the conveniences, the necessaries, and the luxuries of our individual, social, and our moral being by perversion, may become fruitful sources of disease. The attentive and faithful physician will bring all these various circumstances under his cognizance, and will find much, very much to be done in the prevention of disease.

But it has been supposed that the chief business of the physician is, to prescribe for the sick and remove disease. It may at once be conceded that to arrest disease and save life, form no small part of our calling. The value and importance of the profession, in this department, is by no means to be ignored.

To secure this desirable result, we are often required to labor night and day, to deprive ourselves of necessary food and rest, to face the driving storm, to tax our powers, both physical and mental, to their utmost. Who, except the practicing physician, can rightly estimate the amount of labor and toil required of the medical man.

To discern clearly the cause and location of disease, the organs and functions implicated, the pathological conditions of those organs and functions, to fix a proper estimate upon the recuperative powers of nature, to ascertain with precision the positive indications of nature, to select and apply the appropriate therapeutical agents to assist nature (when necessary) in her own work in resisting, repelling, and in removing disease, and in restoring the functions of the system to a healthy condition, is a task of no ordinary magnitude, a task to which every intelligent practitioner is daily subjected. But enough on this part of our subject.

Suffer me to say a few words more in relation to the duties which devolve upon us as members of this Society. The law makes it our duty to meet as a society twice a year; and further, we have pledged ourselves to do so. At the time when we affixed our names to the Constitution and By-Laws of this Society, we then and there signed a bond by which we solemnly pledged to each other to attend the annual and semi-annual meetings of this Society. The object of these meetings is the mutual benefit of each and every member. Here we meet on a common platform, extend to each brother in the profession the cordial hand of greeting. Here by our presence and by our friendly communications, we encourage and cheer each other on in the pursuit of our noble and responsible calling. Who of us then will deprive himself of the pleasure and benefits of these meetings? Who will punish and afflict himself by staying away? None; no, not one.

Let us then be diligent and faithful to our profession, to our medical brethren, to our patrons. Let us be attentive to the sick, kind and benevolent to the poor, the widow and the orphan. In our several fields of labor, let us observe and treasure up all the important facts and interesting cases of disease which may come under our observation. Let us by diligent study, reading, and observation keep our minds refreshed and posted up in medical science and literature, that we may grow with their growth, and advance with their advancement.

Then let us all come up to the annual and semi-annual convocations, and each and every member bring into the common storehouse the treasures of facts and wisdom which he may have gathered during the past six months. Then let each member contribute something that may be of interest, and each communicate freely to others, as freely he may receive from them. Thus, gentlemen, we shall render our meetings interesting and profitable, worthy to command the attendance of all its members. And thus, too, we shall sustain the dignity and usefulness of our profession, and claim for it the respect and confidence of a generous and observing public.

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